

# St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

National Park Service  
Department of Interior



## Camping



Spending a night on the St. Croix or Namekagon rivers can be a rewarding way to experience one of the first wild and scenic rivers to become a part of our National Park System. There are several ways to camp along the Riverway. State parks, forests, and private campgrounds offer many amenities while primitive shoreline campsites offer a more rustic experience.

## Developed Campgrounds

### State Campgrounds near the Riverway

- St. Croix State Forest (MN)
- St. Croix State Park (MN)
- Chengwatana State Forest (MN)
- Governor Knowles State Forest (WI)
- Wild River State Park (MN)
- Minnesota Interstate State Park
- Wisconsin Interstate State Park
- William O'Brien State Park (MN)
- Willow River State Park (WI)
- Afton State Park (MN)

Located in state or private areas, these campgrounds provide tent and car camping. Many of these large camping areas include such amenities as showers, dump stations, water, modern restrooms and more. Fees are charged at developed campgrounds and reservations are required for state parks and at most private campgrounds. State forest campgrounds are first come, first served.

**Minnesota information:**  
DNR Information Center  
651-296-6157  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

Office of Tourism  
651-296-5029  
[www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com)

**Wisconsin information:**  
State Park Camping  
888-947-2757  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

Department of Tourism  
800-432-8747

## Primitive Shoreline Campsites

The National Park Service provides many individual campsites right on the river. Most of these campsites are accessible only from the water; some offer walk-in sites, and all include a fire ring, primitive toilet and a clearing for tents. Picnic tables and water are located at some sites. Check section maps, available at landings and on the Riverway website, for locations. Individual campsites accommodate up to 8 people and 3 tents. Group campsites accommodate up to 16 people and 6 tents. There is no charge for camping and there is no reservation system.

## Upstream of the Hydroelectric Dam

There is a one-night limit at each campsite north of Nevers Dam on the St. Croix River and a three-day limit between Nevers Dam and the hydroelectric dam. There is a one-day limit on the Namekagon River. Section maps showing the location of campsites are available at Riverway centers or from the Riverway website: [www.nps.gov/sacn/visitor/brochure Rack.html](http://www.nps.gov/sacn/visitor/brochure Rack.html).

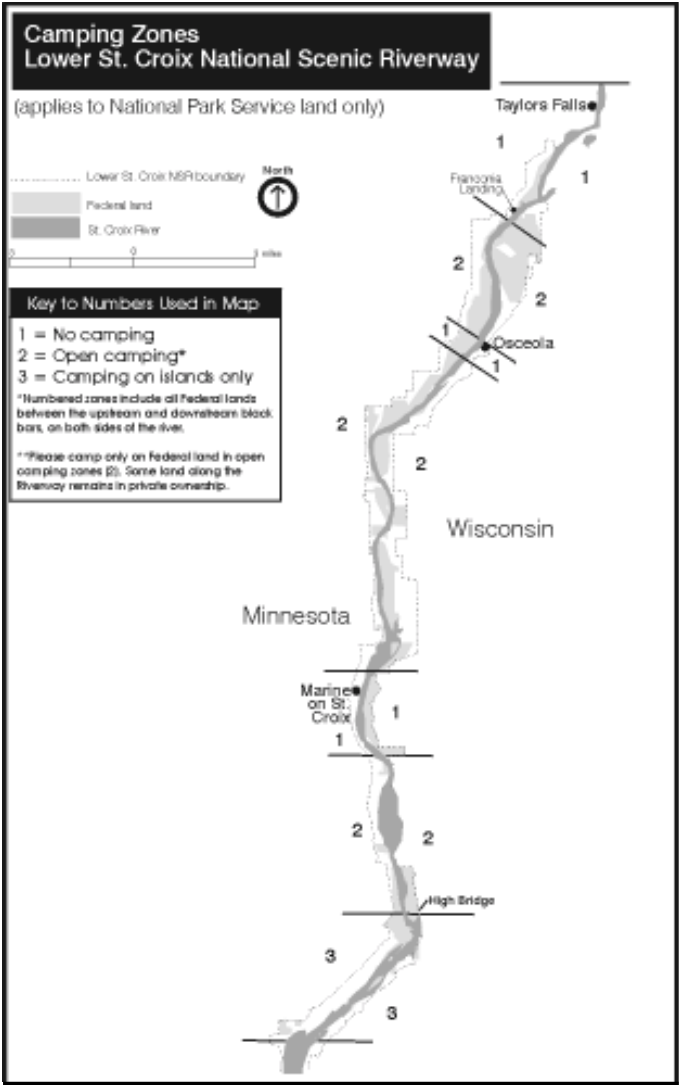
## Walk-in Campsites

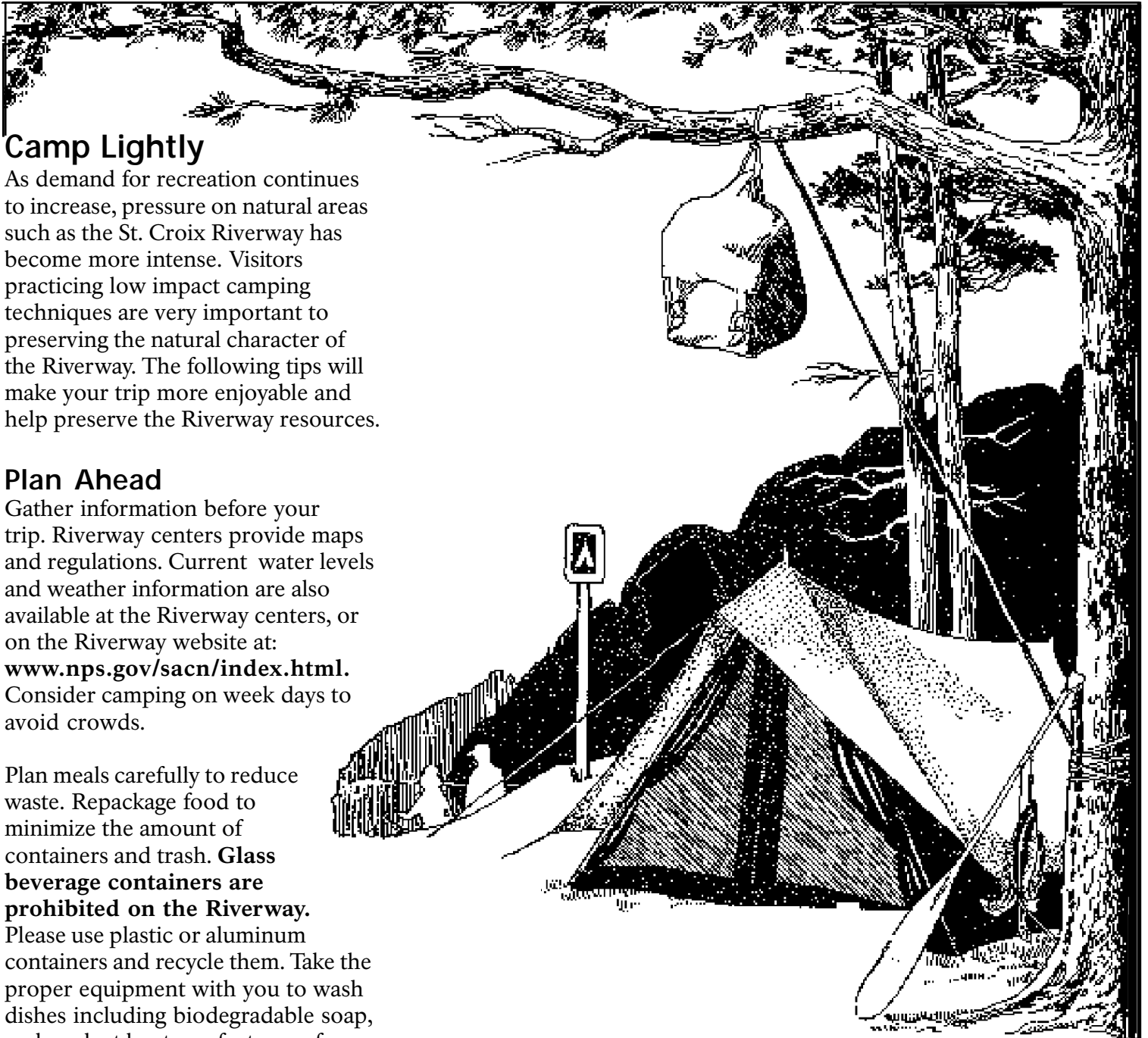
These sites are for tents only. Gear must be carried from your vehicle to the campsite. Walk-in campsites are available a short distance from parking areas at the following locations:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>St. Croix River</b> | <b>Namekagon River</b> |
| Riverside Landing      | Phipps Landing         |
| Norway Point Landing   | Earl Park              |
| Nelsons Landing        | Howell Landing         |
| Sandrock Cliffs        | West Howell Landing    |
| Old Railroad Bridge    |                        |
| County O Landing       |                        |
| Sunrise Ferry Landing  |                        |

## Camping Zones Downstream of the Dam

Camping zones have been designated from Highway 8 to Stillwater, Minnesota, as specified on this map. Please do not camp in closed areas. These have been closed because of overuse, erosion, or the presence of sensitive nesting sites. There is a seven-night limit at all sites between the hydroelectric dam in Taylors Fall and Stillwater, Minnesota.





## Camp Lightly

As demand for recreation continues to increase, pressure on natural areas such as the St. Croix Riverway has become more intense. Visitors practicing low impact camping techniques are very important to preserving the natural character of the Riverway. The following tips will make your trip more enjoyable and help preserve the Riverway resources.

## Plan Ahead

Gather information before your trip. Riverway centers provide maps and regulations. Current water levels and weather information are also available at the Riverway centers, or on the Riverway website at: [www.nps.gov/sacn/index.html](http://www.nps.gov/sacn/index.html). Consider camping on week days to avoid crowds.

Plan meals carefully to reduce waste. Repackage food to minimize the amount of containers and trash. **Glass beverage containers are prohibited on the Riverway.** Please use plastic or aluminum containers and recycle them. Take the proper equipment with you to wash dishes including biodegradable soap, and wash at least 200 feet away from the river.

## Carry Out Trash

A carry in, carry out policy is in effect along the Riverway. Carry a trash bag with you. Trash and recycling receptacles are available only at visitor centers. Do not leave trash in fire rings or toilets.

## Use Established Sites

Use designated campsites on the Riverway. In camping zones on the lower St. Croix, it is best to camp on beaches and sandbars below the high waterline. Confine travel to established trails even if it means going a little bit out of your way.

## Human Waste

All primitive shoreline campsites upstream of the hydroelectric dam have toilets. If a toilet is not available when you stop along the river, dig a six inch deep hole at least 100 feet from water and trails. Toilet paper and feminine hygiene products should be packed out in a plastic bag. Urinating in the river is prohibited.

## Store Food Properly

Raccoons, bears and other animals are attracted to the smell of human food. Keep the wildlife wild by hanging all food and garbage, in a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk. At walk-in campsites, store food in coolers, out of sight, in the trunk of your vehicle. Strain waste from dishwashing water. Then scatter the water away from your campsite and the river.



## Fires

Upstream from the hydroelectric dam near Taylors Falls/St. Croix Falls, fires are permitted in metal firerings only. Dead and down wood may be collected for use by picnickers and campers. Firewood may not be gathered on any island in the river. Campers are encouraged to bring their own wood.

By practicing these simple techniques, you can do your part to preserve the beauty of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

For more information contact:  
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway  
P.O. Box 708  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-3284 ext. 638  
[www.nps.gov/sacn/index.html](http://www.nps.gov/sacn/index.html)

